A NEW STATE CHILD TAX CREDIT WOULD CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL NEW MEXICO KIDS TO THRIVE

Policies like the Child Tax Credit that boost economic opportunity for families are shown to reduce childhood poverty and improve outcomes for kids and their families. What’s more, they allow families to determine how best to spend the money based on their needs, and families spend the credits quickly and locally, benefiting businesses and the economy too.

THE NEW CHILD TAX CREDIT WOULD:

- benefit every single New Mexico child
- provide $25 to $175 per child, depending on family income, and be fully refundable
- benefit as many as 27,000 grandparents raising grandchildren
- improve economic equity for families of color and women
- increase fairness in our state tax system

BENEFITS

- Improvements in infant and maternal health
- Decreased poverty
- Reduced childhood hunger
- Better test scores
- Higher graduation and college attendance rates
- More earning power as adults
WHY NOW

Our children deserve every opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential, and although New Mexico has made considerable progress over the past few years in supporting our families, we still have some of the worst rates of child poverty and food insecurity in the nation. In just the last few months, the pandemic-related recession was still hindering the ability of many New Mexico families – especially families of color – to afford the necessities:

- **29%** of parents had little or no confidence in their ability to make their next rent or mortgage payment.
- **42%** of parents had difficulty paying for basic household expenses.
- **11%** of households with children were in a situation where there was sometimes or often not enough to eat.
- **33%** of parents with children younger than 5 had their child care arrangements disrupted in the past month alone because of the pandemic.

Temporary expansions in the federal Child Tax Credit helped New Mexico parents meet the basic needs of their families. The credits were used to purchase basic necessities such as food and housing, and to pay off debt. But with the fate of those federal expansions uncertain, the state must take the lead to ensure all New Mexico families can meet their needs and thrive.

Endnotes

6. Chetty, Friedman, and Rockoff, 2011